

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for provisioning a geographically-specific phone number to a customer, comprising the steps of:

5 providing said customer with a plurality of geographically-specific phone numbers;

receiving from said customer a selected geographically-specific phone number corresponding to a first geographic region wherein said customer is located in a second geographic region;

10 associating said selected geographically-specific phone number with said customer;

receiving from a remote caller a request to communicate with said customer at said selected geographically-specific phone number;

establishing a communications link with said customer; and

15 enabling said remote caller and said customer to communicate via said communications link.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said plurality of geographically- specific phone numbers are E.164 phone numbers.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein said request from said remote caller is received via a PSTN connection

4. The method of claim 1, wherein said communications link is a PSTN connection.

5 5. The method of claim 1, wherein said communications link is a wireless connection.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein said communications link is an IP connection.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein said communications link is a VOIP connection.

10 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of establishing a communications link includes the steps of:

storing at least one communication device address associated with said customer; and

15 establishing a link with said customer via said at least one communication device address.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein said at least one communication device address includes at least one selected from the group including a telephone number and an IP address.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the steps of providing said customer with a plurality of geographically-specific phone numbers and receiving from said customer a selected geographically-specific phone number is performed via the Internet.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein said communications link supports any 5 type of communications selected from the group including voice, data and video.

12. A method for provisioning a geographically-specific phone number to a customer, comprising the steps of:

means for providing said customer with a plurality of geographically-specific phone numbers;

10 means for receiving from said customer a selected geographically-specific phone number corresponding to a first geographic region wherein said customer is located in a second geographic region;

means for associating said selected geographically-specific phone number with said customer;

15 means for receiving from a remote caller a request to communicate with said customer at said selected geographically-specific phone number; and

means for establishing a communications link with said customer; enabling said remote caller and said customer to communicate via said communications link.

13. A system for provisioning a geographically-specific phone number to a customer, comprising the steps of:

a switching system for providing said customer with a plurality of geographically-specific phone numbers and receiving from said customer a selected

5 geographically-specific phone number corresponding to a first geographic region wherein said customer is located in a second geographic region;

a translation database included in said switching system, said translation database associating said selected geographically-specific phone number with at least one communication device address of said customer; and

10 at least one gateway included in said switching system;

wherein when said switching system receives from a remote caller a request to communicate with said customer at said selected geographically-specific phone number, said switching system establishes a communications link with said customer and enables said remote caller and said customer to communicate via said

15 communications link.

14. The system of claim 13, wherein said plurality of geographically- specific phone numbers are E.164 phone numbers.

15. The system of claim 13, wherein said communications link is selected from a group including a PSTN connection, a wireless connection, an IP connection and a VOIP connection.

16. The system of claim 13 wherein said at least one communication device 5 address includes at least one selected from the group including a telephone number and an IP address.

17. The system of claim 13, wherein the steps of providing said customer with a plurality of geographically-specific phone numbers and receiving from said customer a selected geographically-specific phone number is performed via the Internet.

10 18. The system of claim 13, wherein said switching system includes a plurality of geographically dispersed gateways and wherein at least one of said geographically dispersed gateways communicates with at least another of said geographically dispersed gateways via the Internet.

19. The system of claim 18, wherein said at least one geographically dispersed 15 gateway is in communications with a carrier servicing said first geographic region and said at least another geographically dispersed gateway is in communications with a carrier servicing said second geographic region.

20. The method of claim 13, wherein said communications link supports any type of communications selected from the group including voice, data and video.

